

Morning Session: Tuesday 8:30 - 12:00

Patent Country Coverage and Traditional Patent Information Sources - Session chair:  
Edlyn Simmons

10:30 to 11:00

**Patent Families and Where to Find Them**

by Robert Austin, Fiz-Karlsruhe

**Abstract:**

Patent applications and granted patents describing the global protection sought for a single invention are often referred to as a patent family. There are a number of databases which offer patent family information, but they vary in timeliness, backfile, patent authority, publication-type and technology coverage. In addition, especially where more complex relationships between related patent publications exist, the various databases often have quite different definitions of what a patent family actually is. The author will review the basic principles of patent family construction and, using a few comparative examples, contrast the key features and benefits of various relevant databases, including Derwent World Patents Index(r), CAplusSM and INPADOC

**Bio:**

Robert Austin is the U.S. representative for FIZ Karlsruhe, the European partner of the Scientific and Technical Information Network (STN). After graduating with a bachelors degree in Applied Chemistry in 1991, he joined Derwent Information Ltd in the UK, as a Pharmaceutical Patent Indexer. After 9 years as an Indexer, Customer Trainer and, ultimately, Product Manager for Derwent World Patents Index, he moved on to work with FIZ Karlsruhe in January 2001

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